

file 1015 panel

24 July 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR: CHIEF, POLITICAL & PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE STAFF

VIA : Chief of Operations, DD/P

SUBJECT : Project procedures under NSC 10/2; nature and extent of policy review by the State Department of PP projects and proposals.

REFERENCES : a. Memorandum from C/PP to COP/DD/P, dated 24 July 1953.
b. Memorandum from C/PP to DD/P, dated 26 May 1953.

1. The reference a. memorandum states that the time has come to resolve the question of what advice should be obtained from the State Department in connection with covert operations and what disclosure must be made in connection with the obtainment of such advice. This memorandum also calls attention (correctly) to the variation and degree of disclosure as between the different Area Divisions in their dealings with State.
2. I agree that the time is nearly ripe for the resolution of this troublesome issue, but for two reasons I should prefer to defer it until sometime during the first week of August. I understand that Mr. Horsey will not return from his vacation until on or about 1 August and I feel that he should be present at, in order to be bound by, any major decision which may be taken. But even more important is the fact that there has been as yet no final resolution of the NSC consideration of the Jackson Committee findings and recommendations, including in particular our recommendations that paragraphs 2 and 3 of NSC 10/5 should be rescinded. There are favorable indications that these recommendations for rescission will be accepted, and if so we will be on much stronger ground to contend against the submission of detailed factual information than we are at the present time. In other words, if we are in a position to argue our case on the pertinent language of NSC 10/2--without the trammeling effect of paragraphs 2 and 3 of NSC 10/5--we can make out a much stronger case against the submission of detailed factual information.

~~SECRET~~
~~SECURITY INFORMATION~~

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3. None of this is to say that I do not agree with your assumption that the problem will remain with us even in the event of the rescission of the two paragraphs of NSC 10/5. On the contrary, I agree that we must meet this issue squarely--but at the right time and on the most favorable grounds. I do not believe that in the first instance it would be either necessary or desirable for us to proceed to the highest levels in this Agency and in the State Department for the attempted resolution of the issue. It would seem wiser for us to start off at my level and that of [redacted], reserving the position and weight of Mr. Dulles for the next effort in the event that the first should prove unsuccessful.

4. I should appreciate receiving your reactions to the foregoing.

FRANK G. WISNER
Deputy Director (Plans)

Attachments (2)
References a. and b.

cc: COP/DD/P